

F

127

W5S47

Westchester County

and the

Town of Rye

By A. OUTRAM SHERMAN



Class F127

Book W5 547

Copyright N^o _____

COPYRIGHT DEPOSIT.

Copyright, February, 1909

The Westchester Press
Rye, New York

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

AND THE

TOWN OF RYE



AN ADDRESS BY

A. OUTRAM SHERMAN

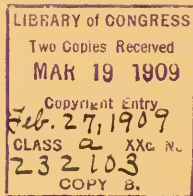


Delivered before

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF PORT CHESTER, N. Y.

FEBRUARY 8, 1909

F127
W5 S47



“No! Time, thou shalt not boast that I do change;
Thy pyramids built up with newer might,
To me are nothing novel, nothing strange:
They are but dressings of a former sight.
Our dates are brief, and therefore we admire
What thou dost foist upon us that is old,
And rather make them born to our desire,
Than think that we before have heard them told.
Thy registers and thee I both defy,
Not wondering at the present nor the past;
For thy records and what we see doth lie,
Made more or less by thy continual haste:
This I do vow, and this shall ever be,
I will be true, despite thy scythe and thee.”
—Shakespeare’s Sonnets.



WESTCHESTER COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF RYE

THE subject, "Westchester County and the Town of Rye," would furnish, had one the requisite knowledge, material for a course of lectures, for a library of books wherein true romance and tragedy would have their part, the history of religious liberty and human freedom would be largely recounted and the story of America's struggle for independence told at length.

Westchester lay between the Dutch and the English. Here the Puritan found the High Church Episcopalian and here they bitterly opposed each other. Here, midway between the spire of Trinity and the meeting houses of Connecticut, was founded a French colony at New Rochelle of liberal and enlightened Huguenots. Here Ann Hutchinson fled to escape her Puritan persecutors, and here the would-be aristocrats hoped to control princely domains, as lords of the manor, but could not overcome the growing power and intelligence of what, one of their number called "the lower order of mankind." ^a Here in Westchester County, in the Town of Rye, arose "one of the most remarkable boundary disputes on record." ^b

(a) "The remains of it" (the English Constitution), "however, will give the wealthy people a superiority, this time; but, would they secure it, they must banish all Schoolmasters and confine all Knowledge to themselves. This cannot be. The Mob begins to think and reason, Poor Reptiles!" Gouverneur Morris to Mr. Penn. Dawson's "Westchester County in the Revolution," p. 12.

(b) Report of the commissioners appointed to ascertain the boundary between the States of New York and Connecticut, April 9, 1856. Senate Document No. 165. "Baird's History of Rye," p. 105.

When our country was first taken possession of, the settlers were accustomed to bound their territory about in this way: "A line from a bush heap to a pile of stones on the north, marked trees on the south, the blue sky and the two seas." Naturally claims conflicted and Yankees killed Quakers in Pennsylvania for years over their conflicting claims to the Valley of Wyoming, and the Virginia legislature, after the Revolution, refused by one vote Washington's request ^a to reward a resident of Westchester County, New York, with \$10,000 for his services in the Revolution, because he had written a pamphlet adverse to Virginia's claims to a territory which he showed would include by the description, a part of the Arctic Circle and the rest of the hemisphere north of the north line of Georgia and west of New York. ^b

I shall not attempt, therefore, in the short period allotted to me this afternoon, to go at length into any branches of so wide a subject, but refer to a few facts of interest, and some aspects of history a little out of the general or popular theory, and that you may have a confidence in the correctness of these statements greater than the mere publication of them by any individual, I wish to say that I am prepared to support every material fact, not from the deductions of historians but by reference to the testimony of the actors in the events themselves.

(a) "Sir, can nothing be done in our Assembly for poor Paine? Must the merits and services of 'Common Sense' continue to glide down the stream of time unrewarded by this country? His writings certainly have had a powerful effect upon the public mind. Ought they not, then, to meet an adequate return" Washington to Madison, June 12, 1784 (similar letters to Patrick Henry and Rich. H. Lee). "The Writings of George Washington" (W. C. Ford), Vol. X., p. 393. "I have therefore to repeat, sir, that the sanction which your judgment gave to the propriety of rewarding the literary services of Mr. Payne led to an attempt in the House of Delegates for that purpose." Madison to Washington, August 12, 1784. "Writings of Madison," Vol. II., p. 63: "I still hope something will be done for Paine. He richly deserves it; and it will give a character of littleness to our state if they suffer themselves to be restrained from the compensation due for his services by a paltry consideration that he opposed our right to the Western Country. Who was there out of Virginia who did not oppose it? Place this circumstance in one scale, and the effect his writings produced in uniting us in independence in the other, and say which preponderates. Have we gained more by his advocacy of independence than we lost by his opposition to our territorial rights? Pay him the balance only." "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," Vol. IV., p. 17.

(b) "Beginning at the cape or point of land called cape or point Comfort, thence all along the sea coast to the northward 200 miles, and from said point or cape Comfort, all along the sea coast to the southward 200 miles; and all that space or circuit of land lying from the sea coast of the precinct aforesaid up into the land throughout, from sea to sea, west and northwest." "Public Good," "Writings of Thomas Paine" (Conway), Vol. II., pp. 31-66; see note p. 66. See note "Writings of Madison," Vol. I., p. 85. "Patrick Henry's Life Correspondence and Speeches" (W. H. Henry, Scribner, 1891), Vol. II., p. 239.

In the years 1640 and 1649 the Dutch India Company purchased from the Indians all the territory between Norwalk and the North River; this comprehended most of Westchester County. The land was called Ubiequæshook or Weckquaskeck. Gov. Peter Stuyvesant of the New Netherlands in 1650 came to a provisional arrangement with New England as to the boundary line between the Colonies, which began at the west side of Greenwich Bay, four miles from Stamford, and ran northerly to within ten miles of the Hudson River. This agreement was never sanctioned by the home governments or respected by the English; for settlers from Connecticut went as far as Eastchester, or Oost-dorp, and settled, the Dutch not objecting. A second conference occurred in 1663. In 1662 Charles II gave to Connecticut all the land east and west between Massachusetts on the north and the sea on the south, between Narragansett Bay and the South Sea (meaning the Pacific Ocean). This may have left the Dutch Manhattan Island, but not much more.

A few months afterward Charles got a generous fit again, and he gave his brother, the Duke of York, that part of the continent east of Massachusetts now comprising New Brunswick and the State of Maine, also Long Island, which he had just given to Connecticut, "together with all the river called the Hudson River and the land from the west side of the Connecticut River to the east side of Delaware Bay." He overlooked the Dutchman's claims and made his grant to his Connecticut subjects look like what the boys now call "a lemon." However, the Duke of York's man, Richard Nicolls, made the Dutch see that they were mistaken in thinking they had any rights, and had even called their land by a wrong name; New was well enough but York looked better than Netherlands. Governor Nicolls had power, with three of his officers, to settle all boundary disputes, and the Connecticut Yankees came down to talk it over and they agreed that the line between the two, now English Colonies, should start from where the fresh water falls into the salt on the east side of the Mamaroneck River and run north-north-

west to the Massachusetts line. This line was presumed to, and they had agreed it should, run twenty miles to the eastward and parallel with the Hudson River. Thus our western boundary was described in 1664.

When Rye was purchased by John Coe, Peter Disbrow, Thomas Stedwell and John Budd, who came from Connecticut (the last, at least, from near Rye, England ^a) it was established as an English Colony. In the year 1680 some of the inhabitants of Rye attempted to occupy and settle on land along the Hudson and complained to their Connecticut legislature that they were opposed. They not only did not get what they petitioned for, but on the new settlement the line was defined at about its present point on the Byram River, and the people of Rye found themselves turned over to New York. They refused to pay taxes for awhile in either colony and did not accept the situation until 1731. This boundary has not, to this day, been definitely and satisfactorily fixed and a commission is now at work on it. In 1831 when the United States Government purchased a part of Captain's Island for its light house it took a grant from both Connecticut and New York, as it was doubtful to which state the island belonged. New York claimed jurisdiction over it as a part of the Town of Rye down to 1883. Long Island Sound was called at one time The Devil's Belt. ^b The great original proprietors of Westchester County, were six in number. Rye, which included White Plains and Harrison, was never the possession of one man.

Cortlandt Manor was owned by Stephen Van Cortlandt, and Philipseburgh Manor by Frederick Philipse, whose heirs lost

(a) "John Budd, the elder, and Joseph Budd came to this country about the year 1632. On the records of London, is Joseph Budd's name, age 15, sailed for New England. They arrived in New Haven and John Budd's name occurs on the records of New Haven in 1639 as one of the first planters of the place. (New Haven Colonial Record, Vol. I., 7-425.) 'The Budd Family' (by Col. Enos Goble Budd, Press of F. W. Sonneborn, 10 Warren st., New York, 1881), p. 4; "The regular line of descent from Rye, Sussex County, England, in 1632, to Hartford, Conn.," &c., id., p. 40. "Washington's Headquarters at Morristown was given to one of the Ford family by Judge Wm. Budd in consideration of improving the same, and Sussex County was named after old Sussex County in England." Id., p. 41.

(b) On a map of early date in the possession of the writer it is so designated.

most of their holdings on account of their being loyalists in the Revolution. Fordham Manor was established by John Archer; Morrisania Manor was owned by the Morrises and part of it was confiscated on account of the loyalist tendencies of some of the family; Pelham Manor was purchased by Thomas Pell, and the Manor of Scarsdale was owned by Caleb Heathcote, most of whose heirs, the Delanceys, lost their land, the family being most active Tories. ^a

Although the Dutch India Company purchased from the Indians about all Westchester County in 1640, as I have stated, actual settlers when they arrived purchased anew from the savages. Thus John Richbell purchased his "Three Necks and twenty miles into the woods from the Westchester Path." This included Mamaroneck and, in fact, all the land between Rye and Pell's purchase. There is a most interesting document owned by Dodd Mead & Co., which gives the details of a dispute between subsequent owners of Richbell's necks, wherein much light is thrown on the feeling against the few rich men who were trying to buy up the county and the farmers who were seeking homes, free from rent charges to any landlord. There were eight plaintiffs, four of whom were Palmers, a family yet numerous in Mamaroneck, in this law suit decided in 1726, and the defendants were Jacobus Van Cortlandt and Adolph Philipse. These "lords of the manor" were defeated, but the farmers were not contented with this victory, and published the findings of the court and their contentions in parallel columns with the defendants testimony to prove apparently that somebody lied. I wish our county historical society could own this document. It was for sale for \$300, so I was contented and thankful for a hasty reading of it which was kindly allowed me by the owners. The whole reason for the dispute over the title to the territory of White Plains is also largely explained in this document.

Caleb Heathcote afterward obtained possession of much of

(a) "Biographical Sketches of Loyalists of the American Revolution," &c. (Lorenzo Sabine), Vol. I., pp. 363-372; "Public Papers of George Clinton," Vol. III., p. 355.

Richbell's lands and added it to his Manor of Scarsdale, so called from the Heathcote home in England. It was a custom with the early fathers to attach to their new surroundings names that recalled the familiar scenes at their old homes across the seas. The preamble to an act of 1657 giving to New London its name states this as being "a commendable practice of ye inhabitants of all the colonies of these parts," and I would like to call attention at this point to what I believe is an error, and that is the statement ^a that the Byram River derived its name from an alleged circumstance, of which there is no proof, that the Indians used to come to the locality to buy rum. The true reason why the river, called by the Indians Armonck, was called by the English Byram or Bairam, was that on the northeast of Rye Port harbor in England was a rocky point called "Barham rocks," ^b and Thomas Brown from the English Rye owned seven lots along this river which he doubtless named, together with the point nearby, Barham or Byram. It is spelled differently in different deeds, &c. A rocky point is in the same location in both Rye Port harbors. If everywhere the Indians came to buy rum the name had attached, it would have been much more common.

In the present Village of Rye is preserved, through the generosity of a few of our public spirited citizens, ^c the old Square House which General Washington mentions as having sheltered him on two occasions. The old house by the Byram bridge was the place where La Fayette stopped in 1824 and is said to have scratched his initials on a pane of glass. From this house he sent a note of sympathy to Catherine Thomas, widow of Major General Thomas, who had died that year. ^d

Until a few years ago the Town of Rye had standing along the Post Road from Mamaroneck River to Byram bridge at the end of each mile an old mile stone, six in all. I regret to say

(a) "A History of the Town of Greenwich" (Daniel M. Mead, 1857), p. 56.

(b) "The History and Antiquities of the Ancient Town and Port of Rye in the County of Sussex [England]" (by William Holloway, London, 1867), p. 348.

(c) John E. Parsons, William H. Parsons, J. Howard Whittemore, as a memorial to their grandfather, Ebenezer Clark.

(d) See Baird's "History of Rye," pp. 147, 380.

that the one that stood in Port Chester about where the First National Bank building stands, has disappeared, but I hope is not destroyed and that an effort will be made to find it and have it set up in place again. The Town of Rye was the only town that of late years possessed a complete set of these stones. There is one on Third avenue in New York, around which an iron frame has been placed so that it shall not be touched, and it is treasured as a great relic. The twenty-fourth mile stone, opposite John Jay's gateway, I fortunately discovered, had been torn up two or three years ago and rescued it from destruction among a pile of stones. These mile stones were erected largely through the instrumentality of Alexander Hamilton, probably at the suggestion of Benjamin Franklin, who himself measured many miles of roads by a device he describes for counting the revolutions of his buggy wheel.^a At the end of each mile Franklin would set up a mark and an ox team would follow along with men to set the stones. On March 9, 1774, the New York Provincial Government passed an act for the protection of mile stones. It states: "Whereas, The erection of mile stones, hands, pointers or any other monuments erected for the direction of travelers along the public road contribute greatly to the convenience of travelers and, whereas, a number of them have been put up in different parts of this colony now, therefore, &c." These mile stones were doubtless the ones erected in 1774 as they stood along the main thoroughfare from New England to New York. Washington and La Fayette happened to record one of their journeys along this road, but I believe that every public character in history, active in the events that occurred throughout this community, traversed this route many times, and from his weary horse's back many a dust begrimed patriot has counted these mile posts and read the numbered miles. I will read you a proof of this from a memorandum book lately found. It has lain unseen a century or more in an old house in New England. It is

(a) "Home Life in Colonial Days" (by Alice Morse Earle, McMillan, 1898), p. 335, and "Stage Coach and Tavern Days" (same author and publisher, 1890), p. 353.

in the handwriting of my great grandfather, an ancestor of mine of whom, being an American, of course I am entitled to be very proud. It reads: "May 3, 1775, To expenses to Philadelphia in company with other delegates attended by militia from Stamford to Kingsbridge,"^a and April 4, 1776, the entry shows that he again passed here on his way to the great meeting in Philadelphia to be appointed on the committee and to work for the adoption of Independence. On the 16th of September, 1774, Samuel and John Adams, Thomas Cushion and Robert T. Paine arrived in New Haven.^b Roger Sherman called on them, but it does not appear that he proceeded with them to Congress that day, but these four passed here together and arrived at Kingsbridge on the 20th, guided by these mile stones along the way. Surely we should treasure these old monuments. An odd instance in relation to the stone markers came to light a few years ago. The Rye Free Reading Room owns and occupies the old Purdy homestead in the village, in repairing which, a mile stone similar to those now standing, was found in the wall of a cellar window. This stone was made for the twenty-ninth mile from New York, which ends just over the Connecticut line. So doubtless Purdy took it home to utilize in his building rather than go beyond the jurisdiction of this colony. The Purdys were several of them supervisors and held other town offices.

Westchester County's position, in regard to national independence and the war with the mother country, was peculiar in many respects. The first action was taken on the recommendation of a committee of fifty-one appointed in New York City at a meeting held first at the coffee house on Wall street and afterwards at Fraunces Tavern. It must not be forgotten that at first even Washington hoped that the differences with the King could be settled without separation from England. The New

(a) "May 6.—This afternoon arrived at New York from the eastward, on their way for Philadelphia, to attend the Continental Congress the Hon. John Hancock and Thomas Cushing, Esqs.; Samuel Adams and Robert Treat Paine, Esqs.; delegates from the Province of Massachusetts Bay; and the Hon. Eliphalet Dyer, Roger Sherman, Esq. and Silas Deane, Esq., delegates for the Colony of Connecticut," "Rivington's Gazetteer," May 11, 1775. (Moore's "Diary of the Revolution," Vol. I., p. 75.)

(b) "The Declaration of Independence Its History" (John H. Hazelton), p. 4.

York meeting was called first by the merchants and men of power and importance, but the citizens generally insisted on being heard, and it is well they did. The chairman of the meeting could not have had his whole heart in the cause for he afterwards became a loyalist and had his property confiscated.^a New York's delegation were the last to sign the Declaration of Independence, and only signed on July 15th.^b This delay was due to the fact that they could not get authority from the Provincial Assembly. On May 31, 1776, John Jay writes: "I do not learn that a word has been said in our convention(meaning the Provincial Congress) upon the subject of a Declaration of Independence;" but the people were ready if the politicians were not, for the "Committee of Mechanics in Union" addressed the Provincial Assembly thus: "For ourselves and our constituents, hereby publicly declare that, should you, gentlemen of our honorable Provincial Congress, think proper to instruct our most honorable delegates in Continental Congress to use their utmost endeavors in that august assembly to cause the United Colonies to become independent of Great Britain, it would give us the highest satisfaction; and we hereby sincerely promise to endeavor to support the same with our lives and fortunes." To which the Provincial Congress replied: "that they could not then presume to instruct the delegates of the Colonies on the momentous question." Westchester County, by action in its different towns, replied to the circular letter of the committee of fifty-one from New York by choosing the delegates selected in New York to represent them also in Philadelphia. The people of Rye called a meeting at White Plains and appointed John Thomas, Jr., a brother of General Thomas of Rye Woods, and several others, to advise on the course to be adopted. They likewise recommended the endorsement of the delegates already appointed. Some of the persons assembled at White Plains

(a) "Biographical Sketches of Loyalists," &c. (Sabine), Vol. II., p. 32, and Dawson's "Westchester in the Revolution," p. 10.

(b) Signing as a whole state delegation. Thornton, of New Hampshire, signed on November 4th. "The Declaration of Independence Its History," pp. 200, 207.

signed the resolutions and afterward withdrew their names. The Rector at Rye wrote a letter on the subject and finally became an outright Tory and went to Canada.

The causes that influenced the people to make the final break with the old country are much more complicated than we generally are led to believe. The preamble of the Declaration does by no means tell the whole story. We get the general idea at school that a heavy tax on tea was the main issue, but it was not a question of tax laws so much as of the navigation laws. American merchants were not allowed to import goods except from England and her colonies, but the practice had long been to import and smuggle in an inferior tea from Holland. English tea carried an export tax of a shilling a pound. This was not increased but reduced to 3 pence a pound, which was to be levied at the port on this side, as an import duty, and the smuggling of contraband goods England determined to stop. John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence first. He was being sued by the Crown at that very time in the Admiralty Court for nearly half a million dollars for violations of the statutes. If independence was secured he not only won freedom of trade for his country, but saved himself from financial ruin.^a

Superior English tea with a tax of 3 pence was actually cheaper and more desired by the farmers of Westchester than the smuggled Holland article, but the merchants of Boston and New York had their grievances on this subject. Westchester County farmers had others and were ready to stand by them for freedom from all oppression. New York Province had no charter. It was governed by appointed representatives of the Crown. Large land owners called lords of the manor, not such in fact, smacked of feudal England. An aristocracy of the old colonial families was growing up, office was largely becoming in fact hereditary, and lastly the people, nine-tenths dissenters, Presbyterians, Quakers and of other persuasions, had been

(a) "Writings of Thomas Jefferson," Vol. IV., pp. 302-3; Dawson's "Westchester County in the Revolution," p. 8; "Loyalists of the American Revolution" (Historical Essay), Vol. I., pp. 8-9 and 13.

tricked not only into a forced support of the English established church but property paid for by the contribution of dissenters for meeting houses and the support of their ministers was seized by the clergy.

A flagrant instance of this occurred in Rye. Governor Fletcher with the help of Lewis Morris and Caleb Heathcote arranged the plans. The act of 1693, for a tax to support a minister, did not state what kind of a minister, and after its passage the governor interpreted it as meaning a minister of the established church, whereupon the Assembly, the next year passed an act interpreting the first to mean a minister of the people's choice, but the governor vetoed this. Col. Lewis Morris thus exultingly writes in 1711: "James Graham, Esq., who was then speaker of the Assembly, and had the drawing of their bills, prescribed a method of induction and so managed it that it would not do well for the dissenters, and but lamely for the Church, though it would do with the help of the governor—and that was all; but it was the most that could be got at that time, for had more been attempted the Assembly had seen through the artifice, the most of them being dissenters, and all had been lost." ^a

Great strife and bitterness was engendered by this foolish action. Heathcote was a fine character and an able man. Colonel Morris said that the Church of England would have been better off had it never been attempted.^b The Presbyterians paid their tax and voluntarily supported a minister of their own choice beside, and two Presbyterian churches were built in Rye before the Episcopal Church was finished. "It was strongly suspected by the clergy when the Revolutionary War broke out," says Bolton, "that the Eastern Provinces were not only aiming at independence, but at the subversion of the church likewise." "The clergy," wrote Mr. Inglis, "used their influence to allay our

(a) Bolton's "History of the Church in Westchester County," pp. xiv., xxii. and 319; see also "Civil Status of the Presbyterians in the Province of New York," Charles W. Baird, "Magazine of American History," October, 1879.

(b) Baird's "History of Rye," p. 319.

heats, and cherish a spirit of loyalty among the people.”^a Some clergymen were pulled out of their reading desks because they prayed for the King.

Crown appointed officers, landed estates and established church livings were a great inducement to many to become Loyalists or Tories. New York was, therefore, the Loyalist stronghold and contained more than any other colony. This state furnished the Queen’s Rangers, the New York Volunteers, the Westchester Volunteers and De Lancey’s Battalions; all Tory soldiers fighting against their countrymen. The De Lancey family furnished for active service Oliver Jr., James of New York, and James of Westchester, the latter was the famous commander of the Cowboys, who used to harass this county, driving off the cattle to New York, leaving children to starve for milk; another James of New York, John, son of Peter of Westchester, John Peter, and Stephen, commander of the New Jersey Volunteers, and Warren, who distinguished himself for bravery at the battle of White Plains against his country, and for his King. If their zeal and bravery had been for our country’s cause Westchester could be proud of this family,^b but now beside the site of the family mansion—

“Where gentle Bronx clear winding flows
The shadowy banks between,
Where blossomed bell or wilding rose
Adorns the brightest green,
Memorial of the fallen great,
The rich and honored line,
Stands high in solitary state
De Lancey’s ancient pine.”

It is not for us now to judge harshly those who differed from the majority, who being reared under the English govern-

(a) Bolton’s “History of the Church in Westchester,” p. xxii.
(b) “Public Papers of George Clinton,” Vol. III., p. 355.

ment, staid loyal to their training. Where was there a greater, or stronger patriot than Benjamin Franklin? Yet his own son was led a captive through Westchester and confined a prisoner in Connecticut, a rank Tory all through the war. One authority estimates that 25,000 Americans fought against their country. Previous to the Evacuation, and in September, 1783, upward of twelve thousand men, women and children shipped for Nova Scotia and the Bahamas, from New York, and I want to quote a passage here to you from a description which shows how much greater was woman's part in this tragedy: "Among the banished ones thus doomed to misery were persons whose hearts and hopes had been as true as Washington's own; for, in the divisions of families which everywhere occurred, and which formed one of the most distressing circumstances of the conflict, there were wives and daughters who, although bound to Loyalists by the holiest ties, had given their sympathies to the right from the beginning; and who now, in the triumph of the cause which had had their prayers, went meekly—as woman ever meets a sorrowful lot—into hopeless interminable exile." ^a

The great drama in our country's early history, the struggle for independence, was staged upon the whole Atlantic border from Boston to Georgia. The curtain rose upon the first act at Lexington and revealed the thrilling scenes of Marion's midnight raids upon the enemy from the southern swamps, but interludes were frequent and often the actors left the stage at these places, but in bleeding Westchester County the curtain never fell throughout the long-drawn years of war; when the greatest actors, the chief commanders of the armies, retired to other stations, minor forces clashed and warred here, and if they rested upon their arms awhile, a horde of fierce desperadoes fought and pillaged all alike, until ruin and desolation marked this fair county. The "neutral ground" it was called, across which contending armies glared at one another and made sallies back and

(a) "Loyalists of American Revolution," pp. 438-444, 70, 91.

forth until the inhabitants, then mostly, the young, the aged and the women, lost all sensation except fear and dread. The lines of the British were at Kingsbridge and the Americans at Byram River. The Cowboys and the Skinners preyed upon the inhabitants, their homes were ruined, the furniture plundered or broken, their cattle were gone, hay was allowed to rot in the fields, the very roads were overgrown with grass. This condition was so described by a resident in 1777.^a That year Judge Thomas was captured in the old house you may see still standing but falling to pieces near Harrison avenue. He was carried to New York and imprisoned in the Provost prison soon to die and be buried in Trinity churchyard. The next year his son, then Col. Thomas Thomas, was captured in the house in Harrison, a spy bringing the news that he was sleeping there that night. Lieut. Col. Simcoe marched all night with Emmerick's and the Queen's Rangers and surrounded the Thomas house by daybreak. One shot was fired from the window and killed a man by the side of Simcoe. The house was forced and officers shut the doors of the different rooms to prevent the irritated soldiers from avenging their unfortunate comrade. The man who fired the shot was the only person killed, but Thomas ran upstairs and stepped out of a window onto a piazza and sprang over the soldiers who were below; jumping over some fences he would have certainly escaped, notwithstanding most of Emmerick's riflemen fired at him, had not an Hussar leaped after him and cut at him with his sword (which he crouched from and luckily escaped) when he surrendered. Thomas escaped from Long Island. He was charged with breaking his parole, but he was in charge of an officer when he escaped and therefore not under parole. He got over to New York and one of his adventures was getting under a hog'shead upon the upturned bottom of which a faithful American woman

(a) Bolton's "History of Westchester" (1848), Vol. I., pp. xvi., xvii.

spread a bushel of salt, so that the searching officers did not stop to examine the hogshead thinking it full of salt. ^a

Col. Thomas' brother was the John Thomas, Jr., who was the head of the committee at the White Plains meeting. The colonel became a major general. He was fighting constantly and representing the needs of Westchester County to the government. At the battle of White Plains he held an important command and protected the transfer of ammunition. He died in 1824 and lies buried with all his hopes, six children, who preceded him in death, a few feet from the house where through the bullets of Emmerick's riflemen he tried to escape the enemy. Here, the year before, the enemy had come and captured his aged and patriotic father, leading him away to die within forty days in the fearful Provost. In the year 1849 his grand nephew, laid out in small farms, and filed a map of the estate of the Rye Woods ^b north of Harrison avenue, and the lane through which the British had twice marched that extended from Harrison avenue to his door and to his tomb, his nephew called "Thomas street." It was extended to Westchester avenue some years later and the name changed to Lincoln avenue. Think of it—such associations—such a noble life lived and risked and ended here, and posterity did not know the meaning of the name. Ladies, I want to see you join in an effort to restore the name of Thomas to this historic road. Let us find some other fitting memorial to our immortal Lincoln whose name should never be used to dim unnecessarily the fame belonging to a noble patriot and soldier.

The majority of mankind (and I trust this audience will understand that I realize and am conscious of the fact, so often stated that mankind embraces woman), a great majority, I say, live upright and good lives from the beginning and are entitled

(a) Simcoe's "Military Journal" (1844), pp. 92, 103, 321; see Col. John Beatty, commissioner of prisoners in "Public Papers of George Clinton, War of the Revolution Series," Vol. V., pp. 212, 221.

(b) "Map of the Property of Thomas T. Ferris, in the Town of Harrison, Westchester County, the late homestead of Major General Thomas Thomas, surveyed October, 1848, by Stephen Brown (of Peckskill)." Map No. 273. Register's office, White Plains, N. Y.

to whatever reward is prepared for the just, but to be distinguished above others it is necessary to be, not alone upright, but also to occupy a conspicuous position during life. Such a position however carries with it care and criticism and a less placid and agreeable existence, so it is well to render unto those who "bore the whips and scorns of time" undaunted while accomplishing most in their generation, homage ever, and preserve and recount often their achievements, so that the present generation may be stimulated to noble efforts, by examples from the past and may be supported through criticism and discouragement with the knowledge that they will be remembered and applauded some day for the purity of their hearts and sacrifice of their comfort to noble purposes, believing too, that if success shall crown their efforts they will live in the memory of posterity.

There is also another reason, beside duty to them and profit to ourselves, why we should dwell upon the noted characters of the past and especially on any that belong particularly to our own community. Among the vast multitude of living men, among the multitude of multitudes who have lived, infinitesimally few in proportion are those who have risen far above the high average of humanity, so that we may well be proud if we can claim any of this exalted few as more particularly our own, or can attach to our community any associations with the great. The truth of all this was realized where "Rival cities fought for Homer dead through which the living Homer begged his bread." General Putman, that picturesque character of the Revolution, was, I saw by the local paper, claimed as a Sawpit hero and the claim is correct. Greenwich has endeavored to appropriate him as her own. His history is too well known and too long for me to go into now, but I merely want to say to Greenwich that the General would prefer to have his exploits here, rather than what he did in their town, support his fame, for he fought in Rye and ran away in Greenwich.

This is a great year for centennial anniversaries. Poe, the

poet, lived in Westchester County, and though his residence has now been included in New York's extended boundaries, we still have in the county and in the Town of Rye a spot hallowed by his poetic presence. We have his "dim Lake of Auber, In the Ghoul-haunted Woodland of Weir." He used to take long excursions into the country and it is very probable that the claim is well founded that if you walk south along the tide-water creek back of Lawrence's Hotel, just this side of Mamaroneck, you will find a scene which fits his description in Ulalume—

"We passed to the end of the vista
But were stopped by the door of a tomb,
By the door of a legended tomb."

The spot with the "cypress alley" is the Guion burial ground beside the water. There is a right of way into it from the Post Road and it is a most romantic and picturesque scene.

There is a grave and a monument in this county, and the earth was shoveled o'er the dead one hundred years ago next June. This audience knows the dead man's name, but I believe few of you know the true history of the man who is one of the great characters of the world, and I am going to read you now extracts from some letters that were written to him and let the writers testify before you as to his true character and his achievements.

"September 10, 1783. Dear Sir—If you will come to this place, and partake with me, I shall be exceedingly happy to see you. Your presence may remind Congress of your past services to this country; and if it is in my power to impress them, command my best services with freedom, as they will be rendered cheerfully by one who entertains a lively sense of the importance of your works, and who with pleasure, subscribes himself

"Your sincere friend,

"G. Washington." ^a

(a) "The Writings of George Washington" (W. C. Ford), Vol. X., p. 317.

“March 18, 1801.

“You expressed a wish to get a passage to this country in a public vessel. Mr. Dawson is charged with orders to the captain of the Maryland to receive and accommodate you back if you can be ready to depart at such short warning. * * * I am in hopes you will find us returned generally to sentiments worthy of former times. In these it will be your glory to have steadily labored, and with as much effect as any man living. That you may long live to continue your useful labors and to reap the reward in the thankfulness of nations, is my sincere prayer. Accept assurances of my high esteem and affectionate attachment.

“Thomas Jefferson.”^a

Then President.

“September 18, 1794.

“It is unnecessary for me to tell you how much all your countrymen, I speak of the great mass of the people, are interested in your welfare. They have not forgotten the history of their own Revolution, and the difficult scenes through which they passed; nor do they review its several stages without reviving in their bosoms a due sensibility of the merits of those who served them in that great and arduous conflict. The crime of ingratitude has not yet stained, and I trust never will stain, our national character. You are considered by them, as not only having rendered important services in our own Revolution, but as being on a more extensive scale, the friend of human rights, and a distinguished and able advocate in favor of public liberty. To the welfare of”——“the Americans are not and cannot be indifferent. Of the sense which the President has always entertained of your merits and of his friendly disposition towards you, you are too well assured to require any declaration from me.

(a) “Writings of Jefferson,” Vol. VIII., p. 18.

“With great esteem and respect consider me personally your friend,

“James Monroe.”^a

Benjamin Franklin,^b for thirty years his intimate friend, Samuel Adams,^c James Madison,^d Robert Morris, Chancellor Livingston,^e R. H. Lee, Col. Laurens, Gen. Greene and Dickerson, can also be quoted in endorsement of this man’s title to honor and greatness—and yet, today, one hundred years after his death, before this intelligent audience I hesitate to speak his name. Before I do, I want first to show by some of his own words the gentleness of his spirit, the purity of his soul:

(a) “Writings of James Monroe,” Vol. VII., p. 296. “The citizens of the United States can never look back to the era of their own revolution, without remembering, with those of other distinguished Patriots, the name of Thomas Paine. The services which he rendered them in their struggle for liberty have made an impression of gratitude which will never be erased, whilst they continue to merit the character of a just and generous people.” From James Monroe’s letter to The Committee of General Surety, Paris, November 1, 1794. “Writings of James Monroe,” Vol. II., p. 96.

(b) “The Works of Benjamin Franklin” (by John Bigelow), Vol. IX., p. 367; “Writings of Thomas Paine” (Conway), Vol. IV., p. 15.

(c) “Sir, I have frequently with pleasure reflected on your services to my native and your adopted country. Your ‘Common Sense’ and your ‘Crisis’ unquestionably awakened the public mind, and led the people loudly to call for a declaration of our national independence. I therefore esteemed you as a warm friend to the liberty and lasting welfare of the human race” Samuel Adams to Paine, November 30, 1802. “The Writings of Samuel Adams,” Vol. IV., p. 412.

(d) “Richmond, July 2, 1784. To Gen. Washington. Dear Sir: The sanction given by your favor of the 12th to my desire of remunerating the genius which produced ‘Common Sense’ has led to a trial in the Legislature for the purpose Should it finally appear that the merits of the Man, whose writings have so much contributed to infuse and foster the spirit of Independence in the people of America, are unable to inspire them with a just beneficence, the world, it is to be feared, will give us as little credit for our policy as for our gratitude in this particular. The wish of Mr. Paine to be provided for by separate acts of the States, rather than by Congress, is, I think, a natural and just one. In the latter case it might be construed into the wages of a mercenary writer. In the former, it would look like the returns of gratitude for voluntary services. Upon the same principle, the mode wished by Mr. Paine ought to be preferred by the States themselves.” “Writings of James Madison,” Vol. I., pp. 85, 86. See also as to the voluntary nature of Paine’s services, Moncure D. Conway’s “Life of Thomas Paine” (Putnam, 1892), Vol. I., pp. 205-211, and “Writings of Thomas Paine” (Putnam, 1902), Vol. IV., p. 430.

(e) “Life of Thomas Paine” (Conway), Vol. I., pp. 182, 193, 195; letters to Paine from Gen. Greene and Col. Laurens in “A Friend of Rhode Island and the Union,” “Providence Gazette” of February 1, 1783 (Lenox Library): “February 27.—The pamphlet entitled ‘Common Sense’ is indeed a wonderful production. It is completely calculated for the meridian of North America. The author introduces a new system of politics, as widely different from the old, as the Copernican system is from the Ptolemaic. The blood wantonly spilt by the British troops at Lexington, gave birth to this extraordinary performance, which contains as surprising a discovery in politics as the works of Sir Isaac Newton do in philosophy. This animated piece dispels, with irresistible energy, the prejudice of the mind against the doctrine of independence, and pours in upon it such an inundation of light and truth, as will produce an instantaneous and marvellous change in the temper—in the views and feelings of an American.” “Constitutional Gazette,” February 24, 1774. “Frank Moore’s Diary of the Revolution,” Vol. I., p. 208, and “Patrick Henry’s Life,” &c., Vol. I., p. 371.

"To Mrs. Few, daughter of Commodore Nicholson, on her marriage he wrote:

"Though I appear a sort of wanderer, the married state has not a sincerer friend than I am. It is the harbour of human life, and is, with respect to the things of this world, what the next world is to this. It is home; and that one word conveys more than any other word can express. For a few years we may glide along the tide of youthful single life and be wonderfully delighted; but it is a tide that flows but once, and what is still worse, it ebbs faster than it flows, and leaves many a hapless voyager aground. I am one, you see, that have experienced the fate I am describing. I have lost my tide; it passed by while every thought of my heart was on the wing for the salvation of my dear America, and I have now as contentedly as I can, made myself a little bower of willows on the shore that has the solitary resemblance of a home. Should I always continue the tenant of this home, I hope my female acquaintance will ever remember that it contains not the churlish enemy of their sex, not the cold inaccessible hearted mortal, nor the capricious tempered oddity, but one of the best and most affectionate of their friends." * * * *

"When we contemplate the fall of Empires and the extinction of nations of the ancient world, we see but little to excite our regret than the mouldering ruins of pompous palaces, magnificent monuments, lofty pyramids, and walls and towers of the most costly workmanship. But when the Empire of America shall fall, the subject for contemplative sorrow will be infinitely greater than crumbling brass or marble can inspire. It will not then be said, here stood a temple of vast antiquity,—here rose a Babel of invisible height, or there a palace of sumptuous extravagance; but here, ah painful thought! the noblest work of human wisdom, the grandest scene of human glory, the fair cause of freedom rose and fell! Read this and then ask if I forget America?"^a

(a) "Writings of Thomas Paine" (Conway), Vol. IV., pp. 433-5.

I was led to mention to you all this because in opening Bolton's history of Westchester County at this man's name, I read two pages of the worst of slanders, which Bolton had copied from the writings of one who was at the time of this man's death a defendant in an action for libel for printing some of these very falsehoods; at the death of his adversary he lied without fear. Bolton even recounts one of the noblest acts ever performed by man in a way to make it appear a crime, and, as I read, I thought, "you know the truth, why should these slanders stand uncontradicted?" Then I recalled another fact; Robert Fulton was his friend and he aided Fulton in his invention that we are to celebrate the anniversary of so soon. I turned to his will. It happened to be the same date one hundred years ago to a day, January 18, 1809. "The last will and testament of me, the subscriber, Thomas Paine, reposing confidence in my Creator, God, &c., author of 'Common Sense,' 'The Crisis,' 'The Rights of Man,' &c." ^a "I will make my confession of faith," he wrote when death seemed approaching; "and I do this with all that sincerity and frankness with which the mind of man communicates with itself. I believe in one God, and no more; and I hope for happiness beyond this life.

"I believe the equality of man, and I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow-creatures happy." ^b

My friends, I shall not mention more on the one subject that has been attached to this man's name, to the exclusion of all else,

(a) "Writings of Thomas Paine" (Conway), p. 507. Recorded Surrogate's office N. Y. Co.

(b) "The Age of Reason," Part I., Chap. I. "Writings of Thomas Paine" (Conway), IV., p. 21. "Above all, Paine was a profoundly religious man—one of the few in our Revolutionary era of whom it can be said that his delight was in the law of his Lord, and in that law he did meditate day and night. Consequently, he could not escape the immortal fate of the great believers, to be persecuted for unbelief—by believers." In these truly amazing words does Mr. Conway sum up (II, 404) the result of his patient and long-continued research into the life and writings of Thomas Paine. Amazing we call them, because they will certainly amaze: they express the exact contradictory of what nearly everybody believes about the author of 'Rights of Man' and 'The Age of Reason.' Amazing they are again, because in spite of that almost universal misjudgment they are when properly understood emphatically true. But first let us heartily thank Mr. Conway for this thoroughly excellent piece of work. It may almost be considered the first Life of Paine. What has been published already under that title has been scarcely more than mere raw material of a biography, or, worse still, deliberate, impudent and malicious slander," &c. "The Churchman," July 23, 1892.

but I would like to recount some of his other marvelous achievements, not things we suppose from circumstances to be his achievements, not from his own claims, but his, from indisputable positive evidence existing in spite of the most malignant enemies. I have spoken of Robert Fulton. He was experimenting with a submarine boat on the Seine in 1797 and Thomas Paine then in Paris, was his constant advisor and friend, for Paine had discussed the subject ten years before. How do we know? Henry, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the first American steamboat experimenter, records the fact that he told Fitch, the man who made the unsuccessful steamer on which Fulton had ridden, that he, Fitch, was not the first man to think of this plan, but that Thomas Paine had, while at his house in 1778, spoken to him on the subject, but both Henry and Paine agreed, as they had never published their plans, to leave the whole credit to Fitch, and Fitch publicly expressed his gratitude to Paine. Fulton never claimed anything other than successful application of the principle.

A remarkable thing is that Paine's biographer in 1892 remarks "Paine contemplated a turbine application to the wheel." Since that date a turbine has been perfected.^a Paine was the first to build an iron bridge, for which he received a patent in England. England has within two years adopted an old age pension system, the plan of which was entirely developed and recommended by Paine in his "Rights of Man," for which England made him an outlaw and had her war vessels patrol the seas to capture him.

Paine experimented with gun powder, exploding it in small quantities, to make power, the very principle on which the gasoline engine is run today;^b but these experiments were the man's amusements. His political writings were his great achievements. Benjamin Rush says: "They burst from the press with

(a) "Life of Thomas Paine" (Conway), Vol. II., p. 280.

(b) *Id.*, Vol. I., pp. 240-1. "Writings of Thomas Paine" (Conway), Vol. IV., p. 438; "History of the Growth of the Steam Engine," pp. 252, 253.

an effect that has rarely been produced by type and paper in any age or country." ^a Gen. Lee said: "He has genius in his eyes," ^b and "I own he has convinced me." Joseph Hawley writes (February 18, 1776, to Eldridge Gerry): "I have read the pamphlet, entitled, 'Common Sense, Addressed to the Inhabitants of America,' and every sentiment has sunk into my well-prepared heart." ^c Franklin said: "It has had a prodigious effect." ^d Ramsay the historian said: "He deserves a statue of gold." ^e Washington said: "It contains sound doctrine and unanswerable reasoning," and, "had a powerful effect." ^f John Adams writes to his wife: "I sent you a pamphlet entitled 'Common Sense,' written in vindication of doctrines, which there is reason to expect, that the further encroachments of tyranny and depredations of oppression will soon make the common faith." ^g That brilliant woman, after the receipt of the pamphlet, wrote: "'Common Sense,' like a ray of revelation, has come in season to clear our doubts and fix our choice." ^h John Winthrop said: "If Congress should adopt its sentiments, it would satisfy the people." ⁱ "Colonel Gadsden brought the first copy of 'Common Sense' into Congress March 8th," says Hazelton in his late history, "and boldly declared himself in favor of Independence." The members had no thought of it and his statement came like an "explosion of thunder." ^j Adam's "Life of Gallatin" says: "It is now almost forgotten that Thomas Paine in 1787, before he went to Paris, was a fashionable member of society, admired and courted as the greatest

(a) "Declaration of Independence Its History" (John H. Hazelton), pp. 406-7.

(b) "Letters of John Adams Addressed to His Wife" (by Charles F. Adams, 1861),

Vol. I., p. 105. "Declaration of Independence Its History," p. 70.

(c) *Id.*, p. 49; "The Life of John Randolph of Roanoke" (Garland, 1855), p. 52.

(d) "Works of Benjamin Franklin," Vol. IX., pp. 367, 372.

(e) "Declaration of Independence Its History," p. 89.

(f) "The Writings of George Washington" (Ford), Vol. III., p. 396; Vol. IV., p. 5.

(g) "Letters of John Adams Addressed to His Wife," Vol. I., p. 84.

(h) "Declaration of Independence Its History," p. 50.

(i) *Id.*, p. 50.

(j) *Id.*, p. 88. See Conway's "Life of Paine," Vol. I., p. 78; "Rev. John Drayton's Memoirs," &c., p. 172.

literary genius of his day." His "Rights of Man" had a like effect in England. A bitter enemy of Paine writes in 1843^a "It is idle to deny that Paine made an impression in Great Britain. There is abundant proof that he did. His pamphlet was read in the streets of London, at Strawberry Hill, in palaces and in gin shops, by old and young, by rich and poor." Another man who slandered him admits "that in factory towns in England, Paine was considered by the ignorant as an apostle of freedom." The people used to sing "God Save Great Thomas Paine, his 'Rights of Man' proclaim from Pole to Pole."^b The House of Lords has lately adopted as the law of the realm what the ignorant applauded over a hundred years ago.

Bolton says "he was a companion of the detested Robespierre and was on the trial of the innocent Louis XVI."

He had been elected in France by four different Departments to represent them in their government. The terrible madness had seized the French. The King was to be tried, with the mob it was: "Crucify! Crucify him!" as with the mob of old. Paine, though he knew that he took his life in his hand, stood before those murderers and declared in effect: "Kill the King! Kill the King! But save the man. He did not make himself a King. Why kill him for it? He was the friend of America and I plead for his life as our friend." The story is long and dramatic. Paine was imprisoned for nearly a year and only by a chance escaped death.^c "The companion of Robespierre!" He was the first and only man who dared, while Robespierre was supreme, to look him and death in the face and stand up for right. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend." Yet Bolton distorts a glory into a crime with a sneer. Inventor, and patriot of the world, was he not a poet? Listen to this:

(a) "Address by John Alberger," 1843. (Contains a repetition of Cheetham's libels, as facts.)

(b) James Cheetham—in the preface to his slanderous edition of "Paine's Life;" as to the character of Cheetham and his book, see Conway's "Life of Paine," and "Life of Paine" (by G. Vale), p. 163, &c.

(c) Conway's "Life of Paine," Vol. II., Chap. 1.

WHAT IS LOVE?

'Tis that delightsome transport we can feel
Which painters cannot paint, nor words reveal,
Nor any art we know of can conceal.
Canst thou describe the sunbeams to the blind,
Or make him feel a shadow with his mind?
So neither can we by description shew
This first of all Felicities below.
When happy Love pours magic o'er the soul,
And all our thoughts in sweet delirium roll;
When Contemplation spreads her rainbow wings,
And every flutter some new rapture brings;
How sweetly then our moments glide away,
And dreams repeat the raptures of the day:
We live in ecstasy, to all things kind,
For Love can teach a moral to the mind.^a

The name of Rye is of great antiquity; before the Conquest it was written Rie or Rhie. Some derive it from the French word Rey, meaning a ford, and cite the fact that Queen Elizabeth wrote in 1573 of "bending toward the Rye" on her way toward Dover, meaning the ferry which was at Rye, but the consensus of opinion derives the name from Rie—old French—for a bank of the sea.^b

On this continent, until the coming of the European, man ran in primeval forests like the brute, the record of one, multiplied by the number of his days, giving the whole story of his life so that

"History not wanted yet,
Leaned on her elbow, watching time, whose course,
Eventful, should supply her with a theme."

(a) For remaining verses and other poems see "Writings of Thomas Paine" (Conway), Vol. IV.

(b) "History of the Town and Port of Rye [England]" (Halloway), p. 1.

but meanwhile, on the southern coast of England, there jutted into the Channel Sea a rocky hill inhabited by a hardy race that furnished history with a theme eight hundred years or more ago, for early in the history of the English people, the waves that tossed about their island home, bore often many cruel enemies to prey upon the dwellers of the unguarded coast, but bands, of the bravest of the land, stationed themselves at the most exposed portion of the shore, that lying nearest the European enemy, and building rude ships ever patrolled the Channel Sea, the sentinels and watch-guard of their home.

These settlements known as the "Cinque Ports" were honored above all communities in the kingdom, as the birthplace and home of the English navy, and to this day their representatives walk on either side of the King at his coronation, in recognition of the fact that they were ever the protectors of England.

This honor the Five Ports have held, "till man's memory runeth not to the contrary," for in the reign of Edward the Confessor, in the year 1050, one of them is spoken of as "Ye ancient town of Rye." Nearby one of its sister Ports was known as "Hastings."

Early in 1600 some of the hardy inhabitants of Rye and Hastings came to America to seek new homes undaunted by strange and savage foes.

They purchased from the aborigines three tracts of land: Manursing Island, Poningoe on the mainland, and Apawamis to the westward, and ever mindful of the precious history of their ancient dwelling place they called Manursing Island, Hastings, and Poningoe and Apawamis, Rye, and when asking for a grant of these lands this reservation was appropriate: "Always reserving out of this our present grant all such fir trees and pine trees, or roots as or shall be fit to make masts or to make planks or knees for the use of our royal navy only."

In Rye Records Liber A. (now unfortunately lost) appears, under date of July 26, 1662, this "Agreement and Orders": "We do agree that for our land bought on the maynland, called in the

Indian Poningoe, and in English Biaram land, lying between the aforesaid Biaram River and the Blind Brook, bounded east and west with these two rivers, and on the north with Westchester path, and on the south with the sea, for a plantation, and the name of the town to be called Hastings.

“And now lastly we have jointly agreed that he that will subscribe to these orders, here is land for him, and he that doth refuse to subscribe hereunto we have no land for him.”

It was ordered by the General Court of Assembly, holden at Hartford, May 11, 1665: “That the villages of Hastings and Rye shall be for the future conjoined and made one plantation, and that it shall be called by the appellation of Rye, and that Mr. Gold” and others “are appointed to go and settle the differences between the inhabitants of Hastings and Rye.” They must have succeeded in their mission, for in the Probate records of the following year, in Fairfield County, we find that, “John Budd Sen. of Rye sells his lands, divided by agreement of the men of Hastings, now called Rye, to George Kniffen of Stratford, the house being situated in the town formerly called Hastings.”

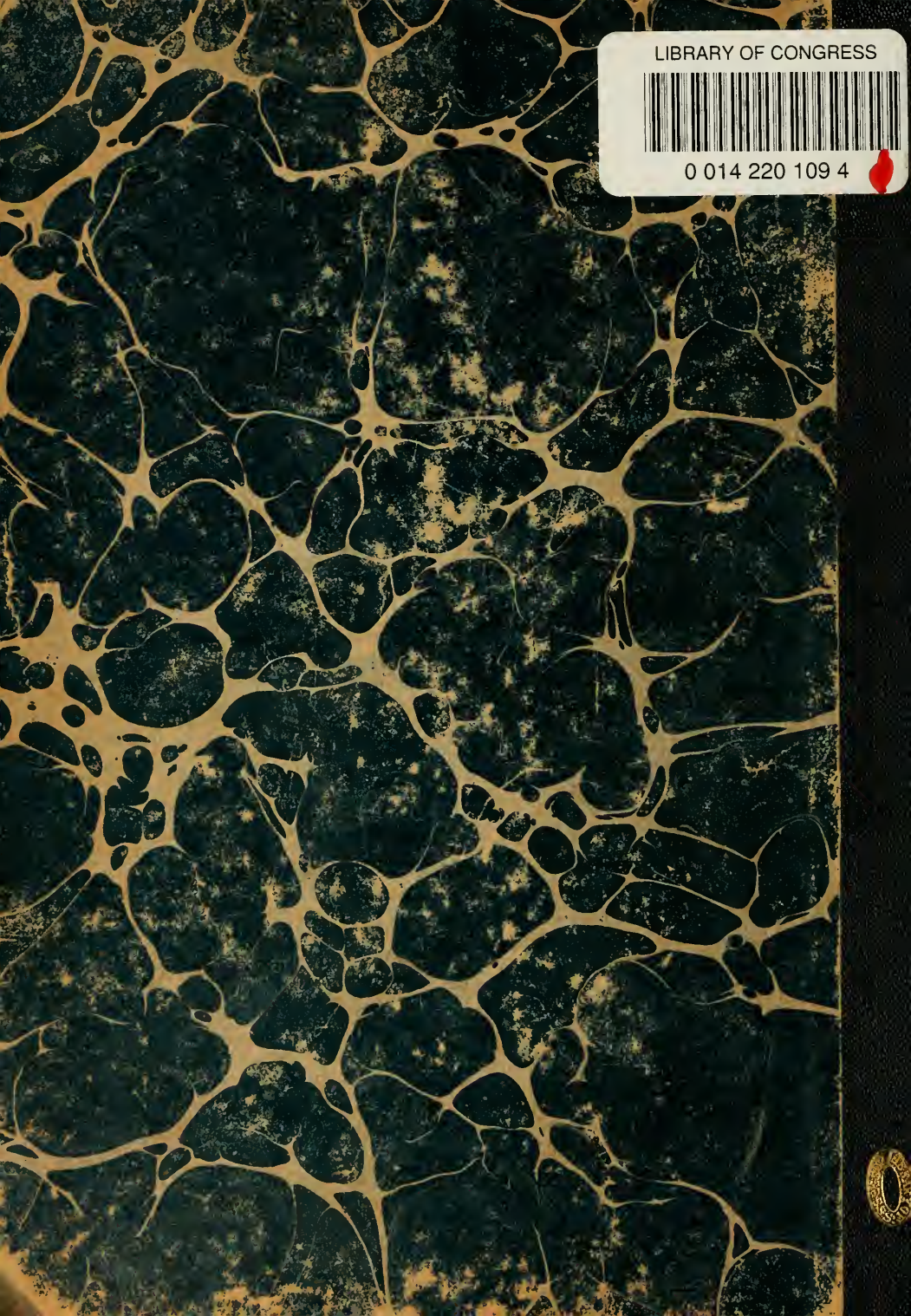
Thus by authentic record does the history of our town go back, generation before generation, like links in an unbroken chain, does it stretch backward; beyond the birth of America, which stands as a modern incident on its tabulation of events, back past the discovery of the Western hemisphere, backward still backward through the history of England, until its beginning we find traced amid the legends of our race, and even there, more distinct appears the story of “Ye ancient towne of Rye” than many of these gleanings from the lost records of human existence. ^a

(a) King Richard I. granted Rye permission to build a wall about the town “and on March 28, 1194, signed a Charter written on a small piece of parchment, only twelve inches long and three inches wide. This precious relic of the past still exists, after nearly seven hundred years.” “Ancient Rye,” a lecture by Rev. A. T. Saville, 1890. See also Halloway’s “History,” &c., p. 274, and Adams’ “Guide to Rye.”

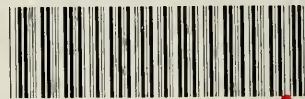
We have a heritage who live amid so many hallowed places made glorious by associations. Some day distant people of our country will seek these scenes, as now we visit the historic places of the world outside, and if we neglect to preserve and mark them well, we will have been unfaithful stewards of a trust.



C 239 89



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 220 109 4

